

paper she generally holds the cake or loaf of bread in the left hand and reaches for the sheet of paper with her right hand, dextrously wetting her thumb with saliva to facilitate the quick detaching of the top sheet on the pile. Not infrequently that portion of the sheet of paper which she has moistened with her spittle is then turned in and wrapped against the food that is later to be eaten, thus transferring some of her sputum from herself to other persons. It is in no circumstances a pleasant little proceeding and under some conditions one can imagine it to be very dangerous. Our correspondent, for instance, on one occasion saw a woman whom he knew to be syphilitic and to have mucus patches in her mouth, do precisely this thing; and the moistened portion of the sheet of wrapping paper came in contact with the cake which she was wrapping. Doubtless this is just one of the little things that have not come to the attention of the proprietors of such stores. The use of paper in rolls would go far to stop the practice, for there is not the necessity to wet the finger in order to separate one sheet from another.

A committee of the Los Angeles County Association has prepared some resolutions on the subject of the division of fees between physician and surgeon without the knowledge or consent of the patient, that are most timely; they will be found in full on another page of the JOURNAL. This form of dishonesty is contemptible; it is petty graft of the worst kind, and yet it is known to exist everywhere. Simple honesty seems, sometimes, to be about as rare as common sense. Another dishonest practice that is at least as bad, if not indeed worse, because it is more petty, is the demanding or taking of commissions from druggists. That is an old story and much space has been given to it in the pages of your JOURNAL in previous years. It is hard to say which is the bigger sinner, the druggist who gives the commission or the physician who either takes it or demands it. The people who divide their fees and the physicians who take commissions from druggists know that they are just petty thieves and grafters and that is the reason they keep it so secret; you never heard anyone admit that he did these things, let alone prefer the information.

Physicians, both men and women, and trained nurses are needed in many parts of the world by the Foreign Missions. Many of the locations that are open offer remarkably good service in hospital work, surgery, etc., and the positions pay enough to make the acquiring of this excellent experience an attractive thing for young men who wish to spend a few years in hard training before they settle down to private practice. For details and particulars, address Mr. Wilbert B. Smith, 125 East 27th street, New York City.

It is hoped the profession will give their earnest support to this bill which will be presented at Sacramento this winter. California should take pride in the effort to be the first state in the union to accomplish a radical reform in respect to Medical Expert Testimony. The bill as it will be presented will have the unanimous endorsement of committees from the Los Angeles and San Francisco County Medical Societies and Bar Associations and probably from the State Bar Association. At the Sacramento meeting the Council of the State Society cordially commended measures then on foot which have since resulted in the framing of this bill. The committee from the Los Angeles Council considers the bill as framed by Mr. Mueller the most comprehensive and effective ever presented in this country. It should and will remove the stigma which now attends such testimony under our present procedure.

Under date of October 1st, the State Board of Health sends out a notice to the effect that beginning January 1st, 1911, syphilis and gonorrhea shall be reportable to the health authorities as infectious diseases. It will be a very difficult thing to enforce this rule and the board has wisely decided that cases may be reported by office numbers and not by the names of the patients. The first essential to dealing in any way with the general question of venereal infections is to determine their extent; this can only be done with the co-operation of physicians. It is to be hoped that every physician in the state will aid the board in this present matter by reporting all cases of these infections. How much decrease in venereal infection may be secured in the course of time, no one can say; the work will be very difficult, but if even a little good is accomplished it will be well worth the effort.

Some kind friend has sent to the JOURNAL, all the way from Imlay City, which, be it known, is in Lapeer County—and that, gentle reader, is in the fair state of Michigan—a copy, duly marked, of the *Imlay City Times*, a paper. The paragraph marked contains the information that a palpitating world has long awaited; the real nature of the frailty of age and the loss of vigor that comes with the passing years. It is "tox cord, or toxic cord." In some mysterious way a drop of blood gets in the bony canals that let nerves out from the cord to all the organs of the body, and this drop of blood dries, or gets tired, or gets toxic; it may even lead to blindness, unless "Dr. Harlan" takes a whack at the poor victim, and then, of course, he is restored to youth and vigor and relieved of his blindness. Treatments are only \$2.00 each, but *spot cash*. Is there anything that human credulity will not swallow? Is there any sort of fake that can not be "put over"?